

REMARKS

The office action mailed February 8, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-17 are pending and stand rejected. Applicant herein amends claims 1, 3-6 and 11. Claims 9 and 10 are canceled. New claim 18 is added. No new matter is introduced.

On May 5, 2006, Applicant submitted a supplemental information disclosure statement to cite art from a recent office action in related application 10/662,459. A copy of the recent office action from the '459 application was submitted with the IDS.

The office action rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on U.S. Patent 5,995,026 (Sellers). Claim 1, as amended, recites that each key of the plurality lies on its own movement axis and has pressed and unpressed positions along that movement axis.¹ Claim 1 further recites a plurality of force sensors, and that the plurality of force sensors are not located on any of the movement axes.² Although Sellers shows two force sensors, Sellers does not teach locating such sensors in positions that are not on key movement axes. In particular, Sellers describes a force sensing resistor (FSR) positioned under each key. The presence of multiple force sensors in non-movement-axis locations is also not taught (alone or in combination) by references that the office action has combined with Sellers as to other claims. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

The office action rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on Sellers in combination with U.S. Pub. 2002/0154038 (Houston). Claim 11, as amended, recites that the frame has a plurality of extensions extending therefrom. Claim 11 further recites that each key of the plurality lies on its own movement axis and has pressed and unpressed positions along that movement axis. A base supports the frame, with the plurality of force sensors located between

¹ Support for this amendment can be found at least in FIG. 10 and paragraph [47] of Applicant's specification as filed. In this illustrative, non-limiting implementation, each of keys 72 is placed over a dome switch 71. Pressing a key 72 collapses the corresponding dome switch. Movement between the up and down positions is along an axis passing through the key and dome switch. This is, of course, only one embodiment.

² Support for this amendment can be found at least in FIG. 10 and paragraph [48] of Applicant's specification as filed. In this illustrative, non-limiting implementation, force sensors 74 are offset from the movement axes of keys 72 that are positioned over the central portion of grid 70.

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the base and the frame extensions, and the force sensors are not located on any of the movement axes. Sellers does not teach these features. The references combined with Sellers in connection with other claims also fail (alone or in combination) to teach the above-cited features of claim 11. Accordingly, claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12-17 depend from claim 11 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.³

Applicant has added new claim 18 to more fully claim his invention. This claim depends from claim 1 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

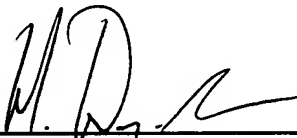
It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 8, 2006

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³ Applicant does not concede that there is a proper motivation to combine the references applied by the office action in its rejections under § 103.